

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 12, lines 1-8:

In operation 501, the header is written to the intermediate program file. In addition, string mode is set. In addition to processing normal object text, the Java preprocessor of the present invention if is further capable of processing string mode text. String mode text is text that does not begin with a meta symbol and occupies multiple lines in a file. More particularly, the line of text includes LineFeed or end-of-line symbols. As described in greater detail subsequently, the preprocessor of the embodiments of the present invention is capable of operating on strings that occupy multiple lines as though the string comprised a single line of text.

Page 5, lines 14-18:

Advantageously, the embodiments of the present invention use the Java language as the meta code language, which makes the embodiments of the present invention as flexible and powerful as Java itself. Moreover, the preprocessor of the embodiments of the present can be quickly learned by users, since the users generally will already be familiar with the Java language.

Page 7, lines 2-10:

An invention is disclosed for a Java preprocessor. To this end, the present invention provides a Java preprocessor that uses the Java programming language as meta code language, which advantageously, makes the embodiments of the present invention as flexible and powerful as the Java language itself. In the following description, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. It will be apparent, however, to one skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced

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without some or all of these specific details. In other instances, well known process steps have not been described in detail in order not to unnecessarily obscure the present invention.